

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 12306 042224Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----017765 042226Z /64  
O 040930Z JUL 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3990  
BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE 2397  
INFO DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 356  
TELAVIV 2077  
JERUSALEM 329

S E C R E T ROME 12306

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1  
TAGS PINT,MOPS, LE  
SUBJECT: FIGHTING IN BEIRUT AND THE VATICAN

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

REF STATE 167997

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI AND VATICAN MIDEAST EXPERT MONTERISI.
2. MSGR CASAROLI TOLD SARROS THAT VATICAN SHARED U.S. CONCERN WITH DETERIORATION OF LEBANESE SITUATION AND WITH ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT AND WOULD OF COURSE, WISH TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO CALM SITUATION.  
HE WAS PERSONALLY MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS IN BEIRUT AND IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING THAT THE POPE ISSUE AN APPEAL ON JULY 5 DURING HIS REGULAR WEDNESDAY GENERAL ADUIENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL PARTIES RESPECT CEASE FIRE. HE WAS HOWEVER STILL WAITING FOR INFORMATION FROM NUNCIO IN BEIRUT ON STATUS OF CURRENT CEASEFIRE.

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3. DURING SAME CONVERSATION CASAROLI INFORMED US THAT VATICAN IN THE COURSE OF LAST TWO WEEKS HAD TAKEN A SERIES OF STEPS DESIGNED TO RECONCILE FEUDING MARONITE CHRISTIAN FACTIONS IN INTEREST OF VATICAN POLICY OF MAINTAINING UNITY OF LEBANON. (THESE WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL) HE THOUGHT HE SAID THAT THESE ACTIONS HAD POSITIVE EFFECT BUT CURRENT ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE AND FIGHTING IN BEIRUT WAS SERIOUSLY TROUBLING THE VATICAN. THE SYRIAN RESPONSE

SEEMS TO BE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE ALLEGED CHRISTIAN PROVOCATION  
THE CATICAN THEREFORE WONDERS WHETHER SYRIANS ARRE SIMPLY  
REACTING TO PROVOCATION OR ARE USING ALLEGED PROVOCATION AS  
A PRETEXT TO EXECUTE PRE-EXISTING PLAN FOR TRIPARTITE DIVISION OF  
LEBANON (I.E. SYRIAN TAKEOVER OF NORTH, PALESTINIAN PRIMACY IN  
CENTER, AND CHRISTIAN CUM ISRAELI CONTROL OF SOUTH).  
CASAROLI SAID THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE U.S. VIEWS ON THE LATTER  
THESIS. (FYI WE BELIEVE THAT USG VIEWS ON THIS WOULD ENABLE VATICAN  
TO DEVELOPE AN EVENTUAL APPROACH TO SYRIA.)

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT CURRENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES IN BEIRUT COULD BE INFLUENCED BY PAPAL APPEAL, WE  
RECOMMEND THAT WE BE INSTRUCTED TO SO INDICATE TO MSGR  
CASAROLI ONCE AGAIN. BY OPENING OF BUSINESS  
JULY 5. THE POPE BEGINS HIS GENERAL AUDIENCE AT 1100 A.M. ROME TIME.  
(B) WOULD APPRECIATE ACTION RE PARA 3 AT DEPARTMENTS' CONVENIENCE.  
GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 04 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2122378  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FIGHTING IN BEIRUT AND THE VATICAN FROM VATICAN OFFICE  
**TAGS:** PINT, MOPS, LE, VT  
**To:** STATE BEIRUT  
**Type:** TE  
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